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TOR:301323Z OCT 75

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5513

INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 5680

RUMJMA/AMEMBASSY MANILA 4146

RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 6356

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3573

RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 3171

RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 624

RUHHHBB/JCRC SAMAE SAN TH

RUHQHQA/CINCPAC

RUFDAAA/CINCEUR

BT

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 6077

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, LA, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRAVEL BY HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MIAS  
BANGKOK POL/MIL PASS COL. VAUGHN  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: STATE 255669 (DTG 282340Z OCT)NBUTL

1. WE WELCOME PROPOSED VISIT TO VIENTIANE BY HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MIAS. SINCE OUR FILES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED OR RETIRED WE DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON JUST WHICH OFFICIALS CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY MET WITH DURING HIS LAST VISIT. SOME MAY STILL BE IN PLACE AND SINCE FOLLOW-UP VISITS MIGHT BE USEFUL WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT FURNISH US WITH THAT INFORMATION.

2. WHEN WE HAVE MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON CONGRESSIONAL PLANS WE WILL SEEK APPOINTMENTS REQUESTED. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO PRG REPRESENTATION IN LAOS. CONGRESSMEN SHOULD BE AWARE THAT LAO COMMUNIST OFFICIALS HAVE DISPLAYED LITTLE INTEREST IN POW/MIA MATTERS OF LATE. WE HAVE NO LEVERAGE TO USE ON THEM OTHER THAN THE PRESSURE OF PUBLIC OPINION WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE VERY MUCH IMPACT. IN ADDITION THEY MAY, LIKE THEIR VIETNAMESE COMRADES, TIE ANY PROGRESS ON POW/ MIA MATTERS TO OUR DELIVERING ON WHAT THEY CONSIDER OUR PLEDGE, IN THE 1973 PARIS PEACE ACCORDS, TO ASSIST IN RECONSTRUCTION. HOUSE DELEGATION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO REPLY TO SUCH

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REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO "HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR."  
 3. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT THAT TRAVEL TO AND FROM VIENTIANE BE ON REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS. WE SUGGEST FURTHER THAT SUCH TRAVEL BE ON THAI AIRWAYS. RAL FLIGHTS ON MONDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY USE DC-4 WHICH WE CONSIDER UNSAFE. TUESDAY FLIGHT USES CARAVELLE, BUT RAL OFTEN SUBSTITUTES DC-4 WITH NO NOTICE.  
 4. GIVEN SITUATION HERE WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST IF THE NUMBER OF HOUSE MEMBERS AND STAFF TRAVELING TO VIENTIANE BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM. OUR AND THE LAO'S ABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS IS LIMITED.  
 5. WE BELIEVE THAT THOUGH GETTING TO AND FROM VIENTIANE MAY BE DIFFICULT AND GETTING TO SEE ANY LAO OFFICIALS WHO COUNT MAY PROVE IMPOSSIBLE (TH MOST IMPORTANT COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS ARE AT VIENG SAY), THE HOUSE DELEGATION'S VISIT WILL SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE IN REMINDING THE LAO LEADERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS WHO REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR IN INDOCHINA. CORCORAN

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